

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 085153
ORIGIN SCS-06

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-----088470 032101Z /75
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 085153

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES (RUBIN, GAIL)

SUBJECT:DEATH AND SHIPMENT OF REMAINS OF GAIL RUBIN

1. DEPARTMENT NEEDS TO HAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO REPLY TO A HIGH LEVEL INQUIRY: (A) DID THE EMBASSY AT ANY TIME OFFER "TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR THE BODY" OF MISS RUBIN TO THE U.S., AS THE ISRAELI CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK ALLEGEDLY REPORTED TO MISS RUBIN'S FATHER; (B) DID THE EMBASSY AT ANY TIME WHILE ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING MADE FOR THE SHIPMENT OF MISS RUBIN'S BODY TO THE U.S. LEARN THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD OFFERED EITHER TO FLY HER PARENTS TO ISRAEL TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL THERE OR TO FLY THE BODY BACK TO THE U.S. "WITH APPROPRIATE HONORS". IT APPEARS THAT THE ISRAELI CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK KNEW OF THESE OFFERS ON SUNDAY MARCH 12.

2. FYI: QUESTIONS POSED IN PARAGRAPH 1 STEM FROM A LETTER FROM ABE RASKIN, FORMER ASSISTANT EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, A FRIEND OF THE RUBIN FAMILY, WHO CHAR-

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PAGE 02 STATE 085153

ACTERIZED THE DEPARTMENT'S HANDLING OF THE GAIL RUBIN REMAINS AS INEPT. CHRISTOPHER

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